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## REVIEWS

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*Oil Investigations in 1917 and 1918.* Bulletin 49. Illinois Geological Survey, 1919. Pp. 144.

The volume consists of five papers bearing on the oil and gas of Illinois. The first, "Petroleum in Illinois in 1917 and 1918," by N. O. Barret, contains statistics of the economic phase of the oil industry. The salient facts, as summarized in the report, are (1) that in 1917 Illinois fell in rank from fourth to fifth among oil-producing states, due to the actual decline that same year in Illinois production, and to the enormous increase in oil production in Kansas in that year; (2) that in 1918 with further decrease of production in Illinois and a notable increase in production in Louisiana, Illinois fell to sixth place as far as quantity was concerned; (3) that evidence of the high grade of Illinois oil is found in the fact that Illinois ranked fourth and fifth in value of product in 1917 and 1918, when it ranked fifth and sixth in quantity of oil produced.

The three following papers, "Brown County" and "Goodhope and Laharpe Quadrangles," by Merle L. Noble, and "Parts of Pike and Adams Counties," by Horace N. Coryell, are reports dealing with the geology of the areas mentioned with particular reference to oil and gas possibilities. All the reports have good structural maps. In the areas described there are four possible oil and gas horizons, (1) the Pottsville conglomerate, (2) the Niagaran dolomite, (3) the Hoing sand (Silurian, just below the Niagaran), (4) the Maquoketa shale and Galena Plattsville limestone or dolomite (Ordovician). The Hoing sand has furnished the best showing of oil, but prospecting in it is hazardous, owing to the discontinuous and lenticular nature of the sand. The other formations have furnished only slight showings of oil and gas in this territory. In Warren County gas occurs in small quantities in the glacial drift; the gas probably was derived from the decomposition of vegetable matter buried in the drift, and no large amounts are to be expected.

The fifth paper, "Experiments in Water Control in the Flat Rock Pool, Crawford County," by F. B. Tough, S. H. Williston, and T. E. Savage (in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Mines), is a statement of investigation and work done in regard to corrective work in water control in oil wells. Various aspects of the problem are discussed, including the use of mud fluid and cement in water control. R.A.J.